



PAWS FOR JUSTICE: KILLING IS NOT A WAY OF DEFENSE

"Having rabies is one thing, and killing a dog is another story altogether."
- Leon Gorero

Malicious killing or repeated torturing in dogs is the extent of abuse known as Animal Cruelty. For some people, they could be doing this in defending themselves against feral animals. Nevertheless, killing should not be the answer to defending ourselves, especially to dogs who are a man's best friend.

On the recent news in the Philippines on March 17, 2024. A golden retriever named Killua has been murdered by Antonio Santos, a Barangay Tanod in the local area in Bicol. Solares admitted to killing Killua, stating with the reasoning that Killua chased his child, [but in-fact as seen in the CCTV, he was the one chasing Killua.](#)

Not only that he lied, he even chased and abused the dog and right after those, he then put the dog's remains inside the sack to hide the evidence. This is such heartbreaking news for Vina Rachelle Mary Arazas, Killua's owner, same goes to all the dog owners or to any person who owns a pet. No pet-lover should go through the incident of carrying your dead beloved best-friend in your arms.

Therefore, the owner of Killua, along with Anna Cabrera, the Philippine Animal Welfare Society (PAWS) executive director has filed a case on Solares under the law [Section 6, Republic Act No. 8485 or the Animal Welfare Section 10631](#), it stated that it will be against the law to neglecting animals neither, not providing them shelter and most especially to kill and torture them. It is a must to punish him for what his actions condone.

Although the both of them had already filed a case, [according to a post on facebook by the PAWS](#), they presented news stating that Killua was posted positive for rabies, but the complaint will still continue. It doesn't make sense rather because, how could they test something just so recently and the fact that Killua has already been murdered?

Another news article written by Jairo Bolledo, the PAWS has stated to Rappler that there's a warning in the test, and they said "[The results of the testing may not be accurate due to the fact that the area is where many stray dogs have been slaughtered](#)". So, this does not make any sense at all. Why would they post something that could be inaccurate, when news is supposed to be factual and true, not *inaccurate*.

The news by PAWS could be either a manipulation tactic to condone the action done by Solares or to lessen the lash of the angry citizens. Regardless of the result, Antonio's action should be punished. It is also a bother to why there's a slaughtering area for the dogs. Regardless of the news, his killing as defense is not acceptable.

Therefore, killing is not the answer. This could actually go both ways to humans and dogs. Most especially to dogs, since humans are smart intellectual human beings who were taught to abide by the rules. However, It is not the same for dogs. Humans can abide by the rules, whereas dogs cannot, that is why killing and eradicating them isn't the solution. The appropriate step for us to take is rather than killing them, call the Dog Pound instead to ensure their safety. No blood shed and innocent lives are wasted.

DIMMING THE LIGHT FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

COLUMN BY: KAY FRANCINE G. ONGSUCO

Small steps can lead to big changes. Earth Hour is an event that encourages us to turn off the lights for an hour to replenish and reverse what we have lost over the past 10 years due to climate change. This can be a great benefit to us people who are living on Earth, as it helps to recover us from all of the damage that we have done on what isn't even ours to claim.

The Earth Hour was organized by the World WildEarth that happens every March 23, from 8:30PM to 9:30PM. The first Earth Hour event was located in Sydney, Australia that happened on March 31, 2007 with [over 2.2 million individuals and 2,000 businesses](#) that had participated in the event where they turned off their lights for one hour.

Additionally, there are also factors of how this can be beneficial to our earth, and also the organism living in it. One of the benefits is that we can gain back [the loss of our biodiversity and nature](#). Biological diversity is the result of 4.5 billion years of evolution and it is where we depend on our needs such as food, water, medicine and others.

But, as of the moment we are now losing our biodiversity due to the loss of ice-free land with now only 30 per cent remaining. The land where our biodiversity lives is now being converted into human uses, some animals and kinds of plants would lose their habitat and might face extinction.

[According to statistics the United Nations](#), there are only 4 per cent mammals who lost half of their habitat due to the increase of temperature with 1.5 degrees celsius, 8 per cent with the increase of 2 degrees celsius and 41 per cent with its most alarming rate with the increase of 3 degrees celsius. Quite alarming if you ask me, as we lose our mammals due to the increasing heat, we might also lose ourselves a home too.

Moreover, not only does it decrease the habitat of our mammals, the coral reef would be affected by the harmful effects of climate change. With the same statistics from the United Nations, with the [increase of 1.5 degrees celsius, 70 to 90 percent of coral reefs will vanish](#) and with [the increase of 2 degrees celsius, there will be 99% of coral reefs will vanish](#).

We wouldn't want to risk losing our biodiversity. However, there are still disadvantages in the Earth Hour, based on the blog by Maggie Koerth-Baker, they have stated that they are not sure about the Earth Hour event and to how the lights would turn on at the end of the Earth Hour, that would mean they would have to work hard to meet ends because of the increasing demand, which equals two times of emissions.

Nevertheless, Earth Hour has its good intentions and other than twice the amount of emissions, It is a movement and promotes action toward us. It brings us together and spreads awareness. If we can do it in an hour, this could help you realize how good it would feel to have contributed to saving our Earth with just a simple hour. Thus, creating a positive change.

Not only that, this event could actually make you realize how much light pollution there is. Light Pollution is the inappropriate use of too much artificial outdoor light. It can negatively affect many parts of our world. This includes pollinators, migratory birds, sea turtles, mammals, and even humans.

[According to DarkSky in 2023](#), by the World Atlas of Artificial Night Sky Brightness, 80 percent of the world's population lives under the glow of the sky, like the picture shown in the right. Whereas, in the United States and Europe, there is 99 percent of the public who cannot see the beautiful night sky with twinkling bright stars, like the picture on the left.



Photo courtesy to Todd Carlson

Thus, it is advisable that we should participate in the Earth Hour event, as it can give us a lot of positive feedback. The action plan that would benefit us, is to lessen the use of inappropriate light. Buy and use more light that are environment friendly light-bulbs. We would not want to only see pictures of beautifully edited sky pictures from the internet. Instead, by making the Earth Hour into Earth Years, we could look at the sky and enjoy the view ourselves.

REVOLUTIONIZING ROMANCE: FROM HARANA TO HEART EMOJI

via Beatriz Kyndra Ferolino

Have you ever experienced having someone to show you romantic interest before? Or perhaps, in that circumstance, you were the one who expressed your romantic interest for someone?

As the decades pass and the Philippines' youth has become more and more exposed and immersed in the digital age of today, where different kinds of multimedia stand firm and influential, a famously-known Filipino culture has shown signs of its evolution — from its traditional and classical customs, it now emerges as more westernized and modernistic. Let's dive into an introspective of Filipino courtship and the art of 'making ligaw'.

Courtship, or panliligaw, dates back to the period of colonization of the Spaniards and early Catholicism. Generally, it's a process of the development of a romantic relationship where the couple gets to know each other and decide whether or not there will be an engagement. At the same time, it's an intimate period in the relationship that helps in discerning whether the feelings of the people involved are mutual.

There are significant differences and modifications in what courtship looks like then and now.

Back then, men often exerted great efforts in the heights and goals they'd be reaching for, in hopes of gathering the attention of the women they're pursuing. Whether it comes to serenading or delivering pasalubongs to the women, the suitors do these gestures in a very heartfelt way. When serenading, men often band along with their friends and gather outside the girls' bedroom windows, armed with their acoustic guitars and confident singing voices that will for sure capture the hearts of the girls. On the other hand, influenced by the late Dr. Jose Rizal's skills and fondness in the field of writing, the suitors also tend to send love letters and all sorts of gifts to the females, all of which containing love from the bottommost of their hearts.

In a different light, nowadays, courtship is now often, if not always, expressed publicly or online. Many people tend to practice Public Display of Affection (PDA), and there can be a potential increase in one's dating chances and opportunities with many online platforms that now exist on the internet. Examples of this are Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Tinder, and more, where talking with your loved one becomes an easy and trouble-free thing to do as there is now wireless communication embedded in these social media platforms. In this light, the old Filipino customs of traditional courtship may now be considered as "slow and arduous" tasks, showing how the drastic changes in societal norms in terms of romance has been revolutionized throughout the decades, and how it proves to be an effect of modern technology's influential capabilities.

Furthermore, today's media landscape and modernized courting opens many doors and ways for younger generations to experience and participate in romance already at an early stage

of their lives. Through this, the idea of “love is love” is now also normalized among society, where we’ve learned to accept the existence of romantic relationships between two girls and two boys more openly, and that they are no different to the relationship of that between a girl and boy — there’s still a process of intimately getting to know each other and pursuing one another.

There’s nothing wrong with acknowledging the new-fashioned ways of courting among couples and how much they’ve evolved throughout the decades. After all, “change is constant.” And it’s only right to embrace it and let it propel us forward. However, it’s also crucial to acknowledge the importance of our history and the traditions that have progressed throughout it, as they are part of our nation’s past that has shaped our society into what it is today.

SWITCH OFF, SHINE ON: HOW AN HOUR CAN CHANGE THE WORLD

“Great things are not done by impulse, but by a series of small things brought together.”

- Vincent Van Gogh

The oppressively constant and rather relentless electricity consumption within our world is both a necessity and menace. While it provides energy and beneficial help within our homes, industries, and cities, it still imposes great, harmful repercussions on Mother Earth that cannot simply be overlooked. In this light, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) organized a worldwide environmental movement that aims to devote 60 minutes for earth, where neighborhoods are to switch off their non-essential electric lights, and ultimately taking action for resolving our planet’s climate change mitigation — Earth Hour.

The WWF is an international organization that unites people, businesses, and communities together from all corners of the world. For more than 25 years, it has been striving hard to sustain the Earth's natural world for the benefit of humans and wildlife. Along this process, they've given rise to Earth Hour, and since then, participants all over the world spend the evening of March 23rd from 8:30PM to 9:30PM annually, reflecting on the environmental impacts of the said movement and the actions to consider to address the ever-plaguing climate change. At its heart, it brings individuals together, encompasses candlelit eco-friendly activities, and fosters a sense of camaraderie and a shared purpose.

Through Earth Hour, we foster awareness about climate change and the urgent need for action to mitigate its impacts. By simply switching off lights for one hour, participants demonstrate their commitment to reducing energy consumption, combating climate change, and preserving the planet. Though the idea of dimming our lights may seem strange, it in return illuminates brightness for our planet's future.

As Earth Hour evolves and expands its reach, its message remains as timely as ever. In an era of society marked by increasing and unprecedented environmental problems, Earth Hour serves as a reminder of our connectivity and shared responsibility to protect Mother Nature for the future generations to come. Earth Hour paves the way for a brighter, more sustainable future for everybody by using the collective power of individuals and communities around the world.

In a world coping with the serious consequences of climate change, Earth Hour stands out as a strong symbol of hope and unity. Earth Hour, with its simple but meaningful gesture of

turning off lights for an hour, galvanizes worldwide action, invokes transformative change, and promotes a sense of unity between humans, despite being in the face of environmental issues. As we stand at a threshold in human history, Earth Hour reminds us that we all have the capacity to create a sustainable future if we work together to safeguard our Earth, the planet we call home.

CREAMLINE OUTPLAYS SIGNAL, 3-2

In a heart-stopping clash on the volleyball court, Creamline battled it out against Signal in a close knit bout, dominating three sets in a best of five match, 3-2, during the thrilling encounter in the preliminary round on Tuesday, March 26 held at PhilSports Arena.

Already evident from the first serve, the intensity of play was palpable as Signal and Creamline traded blows in a back-and-forth affair.

Each set was tightly contested, with neither team willing to concede an inch. Rallies stretched on, highlighting the exceptional defensive capabilities and offensive firepower of both sides.

